

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 SAL-01 DLOS-06

EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SP-02 L-03 OMB-01 OPIC-03 XMB-02 /075 W

----- 071358

R 101113Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3702

INFO AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 2495

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EFIS SL USSR

SUBJ: SOVIET FISH SALES IN SIERRA LEONE

REF: A) STATE A-425, B) MONROVIA 5626, C) FREETOWN A-017

1. SIERRA LEONE'S FISHERY DEALINGS WITH USSR ARE COMPLEX AND INVOLVE SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS AND FIRMS. THESE INCLUDE:
(1) JAMIL SAHID MOHAMID, A LEBANESE NATIONAL WHO IS PRESIDENT OF SIERRA FISHING COMPANY (ESTABLISHED IN JULY '76). JAMIL HAS BEEN BUYING SOVIET-CAUGHT FISH FOR PAST 8 MONTHS. JAMIL'S INFORMATION TO RFA PROVED LEAST RELIABLE OF ALL DISCUSSIONS HELD. (2) NICK G. CLONOS, OF GREEK ORIGIN, SOON TO BE PRESIDENT OF FISH INDUSTRIES SIERRA LEONE (FISL). (3) D.J. FLETCHER, MANAGER OF FISL, JOINT VENTURE FISHING ENTERPRISES (JVFE) AND SIERRA LEONE SHRIMP EXPORT CO. (SLSE). FLETCHER, AN ENGLISH NATIONAL, APPEARED SOMEWHAT EVASIVE ON UDDR FISH TRADE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH RFA. (4) KEITH BRADSHAW, AND TO LESSER EXTENT, STEPHEN CARROLLE OF MESURADO OF LIBERIA WHO OWNS 50 PERCENT OF FISL AND 25 PERCENT OF JVFE AND SLSE.

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2. ACCORDING TO JAMIL, ALL SOVIET-CAUGHT FISH DELIVERED TO FREETOWN IS SOLD LOCALLY, CLONOS AND FLETCHER BOTH INDEPENDENTLY STATED THAT CATCH IS LOADED ONTO A GHANAIAN REEFER FOR EXPORT TO GHANA AND/OR NIGERIA. FLETCHER, HOWEVER, ALSO STATED THAT MESURADO DID NOT PURCHASE ANY SOVIET-CAUGHT FISH FROM JAMIL, WHILE BRADSHAW OPENLY ADMITS PURCHASE AND SORAGE OF JAMIL'S FISH AT FISL. FLETCHER ALSO DENIED THAT JAMIL HAS STORED ANY FISH AT FISL, WHILE CLONOS ADMITS THIS. JAMIL, WHO HAS NO COLD STORES AT PRESENT, STATED THAT FISL HAS CHARGED HIM EXTREMELY HIGH PRICES FOR STORAGE OF HIS FISH AT FISL COLD STORES. RFA COMMENT: SOVIET FISH IS PURCHASED BY JAMIL, IS STORED EITHER BY FISL FOR SOME LOCAL SALES OR FOR EXPORT TO LIBERIA, GHANA, AND/OR NIGERIA. SOME FISH APPARENTLY IS DIRECTLY OFF-LOADED ONTO A GHANAIAN REEFER.

3. CLONOS REPORTED THAT SOVIET STERN TRAWLER "STEPHAN KOZAK" ON JUNE 23 AND JULY 13, 1976 LANDED 100 TONS (T) OF FISH AND 118 T; ON SAME DATES TRAWLER "VASSILY LASHINE" (AS REPORTED) LANDED 100 T AND 109 T RESPECTIVELY. TOTAL OF 427 T THUS LANDED DURING 20-DAY PERIOD. JAMIL TOLD RFA SOVIET FISH DELIVERIES HAVE AVERAGED 500 T PER MONTH DURING LAST 8 MONTHS.

4. CLONOS INDICATED JAMIL PAYS US DOLS160/T FOR MACKEREL AND UP TO DOLS300/T FOR BARRACUDA. AN ADDITIONAL DOLS40/T IS ADDED AS AN IMPORT TAX. BRADSHAW, FLETCHER, AND CLONOS ALL INDEPENDENTLY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT JAMIL THEN ADDS DOLS100/T TO PRICE OF PRODUCT. IF CORRECT, YEARLY PROFIT ON 500 T/MONTH WOULD BE DOLS600,000.

5. JAMIL TOLD RFA THAT PAYMENTS ARE MADE BY 60-TO-90-DAY NOTES SENT TO "CASACRUS" THE FRENCH-SOVIET JOINT FISHING COMPANY ALSO KNOWN AS FRANCESOV.

6. RFA COMMENT: SOVIET FISH SALES TO SIERRA LEONE ARE LARGELY FOR EXPORT WITH VERY SMALL AMOUNTS BEING SOLD LOCALLY. VERY LITTLE BENEFIT, THEREFORE, IS BEING GAINED BY EITHER THE SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT (WHO EARNS DOLS40/T IN TAXES) OR BY THE POPULATION. RFA DOUBTS THAT SOVIETS VIEW OPERATION AS PARTICULARLY PROFITABLE, ALTHOUGH THIS IS COMPENSATED BY ABILITY TO FISH IN LOCAL WATERS WITHOUT HAVING TO ACCOUNT FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOTAL CATCH.
NORTH

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NNN

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